

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A film cassette assembly comprising:

a film clip;

an outer film cover adapted to received the film clip; and

an inner film cover received in the outer film cover and over at least a portion of said film clip.

2. A film cassette assembly in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said film clip is configured to receive a 35 mm film cartridge.

3. A film cassette assembly in accordance with Claim 1, said film clip comprising at least one film guide, said inner film cover situated over said film guide.

4. A film cassette assembly in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said film clip comprises a winding housing.

5. A film cassette assembly in accordance with Claim 1, at least one of said outer film cover and said inner film cover having a stepped configuration.

6. A film cassette assembly comprising:

an outer film cover comprising opposite lateral sides;

a film clip situated between said lateral sides, said film clip comprising a winding housing at one end thereof;

a film cartridge coupled to said film clip and distanced from said winding housing; and

an inner film cover disposed over said film clip between said film cartridge and said winding housing, said inner film cover removably attached to said outer film cover.

7. A film cassette assembly in accordance with Claim 6 wherein at least one of said lateral sides has a stepped configuration.

8. A film cassette assembly in accordance with Claim 6 wherein said inner film cover comprises at least one flare received in said outer film cover.

9. A film cassette assembly in accordance with Claim 8 wherein said inner film cover flare comprises a beveled edge, said edge extending beneath said film cartridge.

10. A film cassette assembly in accordance with Claim 6 wherein one of said inner and said outer film covers comprises a rib, and the other of said inner film cover and said outer film cover comprises a slot, said rib received in said slot.

11. A camera comprising:

a camera body;

a film housing within said body;

a detachable film clip situated within said film housing, said film clip comprising a winding housing coupled thereto, said winding housing at least partially containing a roll of unused film;

a film cartridge coupled to said film clip and receiving used film as pictures are taken;

an advancing element coupled to said body for advancing used film into said film cartridge as pictures are taken; and

first and second removable film covers enclosing a portion of said film clip when said film clip is removed from said film housing.

12. A camera in accordance with Claim 11 wherein at least one of said first and second film covers has a stepped configuration.

13. A camera in accordance with Claim 11 wherein at least one of said first and second film covers comprises a light barrier.

14. A camera in accordance with Claim 11 wherein said film cartridge is a 35 mm film cartridge,

15. A camera in accordance with Claim 11, said film clip further comprising a film guide track, said first and second film covers enclosing said guide track.

16. A method for installing film into a detachable film cassette assembly, the cassette assembly including a film clip adapted to receive a film cartridge, a winding housing attached to the film clip, and first and second film covers, said method comprising:

coupling the film cartridge to the film clip;

inserting the film clip into the first film cover;

inserting the second film cover over the film clip; and

engaging the first and second film covers to at least partially enclose the film clip between the winding housing and the film cartridge.

17. A method in accordance with Claim 16 wherein further comprising advancing film from the film cartridge to the winding housing to prepare the film for taking pictures.

18. A method in accordance with Claim 16, each of the first and second film covers having lateral sides, one of the lateral sides of the first film cover including a rib and one of the lateral sides of the second film cover including a slot, said engaging the first and second film covers comprising:

positioning the second cover slot over the slot; and

engaging the slot and the rib.

19. A method of installing film into a detachable film cassette assembly for a camera, the film cassette assembly including a film clip configured for attachment to a film cartridge, a winding housing extending from the film clip, and at least one guide track extending to the winding housing, the method further utilizing first and second film covers configured for attachment to one another, said method comprising:

attaching the film cartridge to the film clip;

attaching the first and second film covers to one another over the film clip; and

winding the film from the film cartridge between one of the film covers and the guide track from the film cartridge to the winding housing before the film is used.

20. A method in accordance with Claim 19 wherein said attaching the first and second film covers to one another over the film clip comprises:

inserting the film clip into the first cover such that the film clip is situated between lateral side walls of the first film cover; and

inserting the second film cover over the film clip such that lateral side walls of the second cover are engaged to the lateral side walls of the first film cover.

21. A method in accordance with Claim 19, the second cover including flares with beveled edges, said inserting the second film cover over the film clip comprising:

inserting the beveled edges of the flares under the film cartridge;

rotating the second cover about the beveled edges until the second cover contacts the winding housing; and

pressing the second cover until the second cover snaps over the film clip.

22. A method for loading film into a camera including a body and a film housing therein, a detachable film clip situated within said housing and including a winding housing at one end thereof and at least one guide track extending adjacent the winding housing, the winding housing including a spool therein, the method further employing first and second removable film covers, said method comprising:

removing the film clip from the film housing;

attaching a film cartridge to the film clip;

engaging a first end of a film with the spool;

attaching the first and second film covers to the film clip on opposite sides of the film clip between the film cartridge and the winding housing;

extending film from the film cartridge across the guide track to the winding housing before the film is used;

removing the first and second film covers from the film clip; and

returning the film clip to the film housing.

23. A method in accordance with Claim 22 wherein the winding housing includes a spool and a crank handle, said extending film from the film cartridge across the guide track to the winding housing comprising:

rotating the film cartridge until the film is advanced to the spool; and

rotating the crank handle to wind the film around the spool while the film clip is removed from the camera.

24. A camera comprising:

a body;

a detachable film clip within said body; and

a film cover configured to attach to said film clip when loading film.

25. A camera in accordance with Claim 24 further comprising a winding housing and a film cartridge coupled to said film clip, said cover attached to said film clip between said film cartridge and said winding housing.

26. A camera in accordance with Claim 25, said cover comprising a light barrier extending adjacent said film cartridge and adjacent said winding housing.

27. A method for installing film into a detachable film cassette assembly, the cassette assembly including a film clip adapted to receive a film cartridge, a winding housing attached to the film clip, and a film cover, said method comprising:

coupling the film cartridge to the film clip;

feeding film from the film cartridge to the winding housing; and

engaging the film cover to the film clip between the winding housing and the film cartridge to cover exposed film.

28. A method in accordance with Claim 27 further comprising winding the film into the winding housing.

29. A method in accordance with Claim 28, the winding housing including a spool and a crank handle, said winding the film into the winding housing comprising rotating the spool with the crank handle.